

Application No. 10/072,190
Filed: February 7, 2002
Confirmation No.: 3763
Group Art Unit: 3673

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn)

2. (Withdrawn)

3. (Withdrawn)

4. (Currently Amended) A device for the mechanical decontamination of contaminated surface of mineral materials, wherein said surface is radioactively contaminated concrete or radioactively contaminated masonry, wherein the device comprises several pneumatically actuated striking tools, wherein said striking tools are arranged in a housing with several chambers arranged over one another such that each of said striking tool is in active connection with each chamber, wherein said several chambers ~~comprise any one of~~ comprising a pressurized air feed chamber, a pressurized air expansion chamber, a suction chamber, a collecting chamber or any combination thereof, ~~and wherein said~~ striking tools are releasably connected to the pressurized air chamber and sealingly pass through arranged chambers, wherein said collecting chamber is sealed with respect to the surroundings in an air-permeable manner, wherein said pressurized air expansion chamber is arranged between the suction chamber lying directly thereabove and the collecting chamber lying directly therebelow, and wherein said expansion chamber is passed through by several lead-throughs which form communicating connections between the collecting chamber and the suction chamber.

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5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 4, wherein the pressurized air feed chamber in the device is arranged at the top and the collecting chamber is arranged at the bottom.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 4, wherein the pressurized air expansion chamber lies between the pressurized air feed chamber lying directly thereabove and the common collecting and suction chamber lying directly therebelow.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A device for the mechanical decontamination of contaminated surface of mineral materials, wherein said surface is radioactively contaminated concrete or radioactively contaminated masonry, wherein the device comprises several pneumatically actuated striking tools, wherein said striking tools are arranged in a housing with several chambers arranged over one another such that each of said striking tool is in active connection with each chamber, wherein said several chambers include a pressurized air feed chamber, a pressurized air expansion chamber, a suction chamber, a collecting chamber or any combination thereof, wherein said striking tools are releasably connected to the pressurized air chamber and sealingly pass through arranged chambers, wherein said collecting chamber is

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sealed with respect to the surroundings in an air-permeable manner, wherein said pressurized air expansion chamber is arranged between the suction chamber lying directly thereabove and the collecting chamber lying directly therebelow, wherein said expansion chamber is passed through by several lead-throughs which form communicating connections between the collecting chamber and the suction chamber~~The device according to claim 10,~~ and wherein the lead-throughs peripherally pass through the expansion chamber.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 4, wherein the air-permeable sealing is effected by way of a circumferential skirt.

14. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 4, wherein the air-permeable sealing is effected by way of a circumferential brush seal.

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein the pressurized air feed chamber projects beyond the chamber located therebelow and is held by an overlapping clip which serves as a mounting for a robot arm or handling apparatus connectable thereto.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 4, wherein the releasable striking tools are held by way of screw connections passing through the housing on the outside.

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18. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 4, wherein the striking tools are equipped with exchangeable, chisel-like hammer bolts.

19. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 4, wherein the pressurized air feed chamber in the device is arranged at the top and the collecting chamber at the bottom.

20. (Cancelled)